

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /120 W

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P R 111211Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3953

INFO DIA WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 382

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2128

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, IN

SUBJECT: SECOND INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST REPORTED PENDING

1. THE INDIAN NEWS SERVICE SAMACHAR REPORTED FEBRUARY 10
THAT INDIA WOULD CONDUCT A SECOND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FOR
PEACEFUL PURPOSES AFTER COMPLETION OF THE STUDY OF THE FIRST
EXPLOSION AT POKHARAN. THE REPORT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO DEPUTY
ENERGY MINISTER SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD WHO WAS SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN IN
UJJAIN. HTUE SAMACHAR STORY ADDED THAT PRASAD SAID THE DATA
FROM POKHARAN WAS BEING PROCESSED. THE REPORT APPEARS TO
US TO BE A DISTORTED VARIATION OF THE GOI POSITION THAT
THE DECISION TO TEST IS CONTINGENT ON THE FINDINGS FROM THE
FIRST NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO GOI OFFICIAL
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HAS EVER SAID THERE WOULD DEFINITELY BE ANOTHER PEACEFUL TEST

EXPLOSION.

2. THE SAMACHAR DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THE STORY AS IT CAME FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN UJJAIN INDICATED THAT IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON WHEN INDIA WOULD ADplode ITS NEXT NUCLEAR DEVICE, PRASAD HAD MERELY REPLIED IT WOULD AWAIT THE COMPLETION OF PROCESSING OF INFIRMATION FROM THE POKHARAN TEST. WE ARE TOLD PSAMACHAR HAS NO QUOTE FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER THAT THE GOI WILL REPEAT THE TEST.

3. C. K. JOSEPH, DIRECTOR (FOREIGN AFFAIRS), IAEC, INFORMED CONSUL ENERAL COURTNEY TODAY, FEBRUARY 12' THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE DELHI EDITION OF THE TIMES WHICH CARRIED THE SAMACHAR STORY. JOSEPH SAID THE MINISTER WAS UNDOUBTEDLY MISQUOTED. HE SAID THE INDIAN POLICY REMAINS AS STATED TO THE CONSUL GEN-ERAL PREVIOUSLY (NEW DELHI 1028) AND THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION REACHED REGARDING SECOND TEST.

4. A MINISTRY OF ENERGY SOURCE IN NEW DELHI TOLD THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR THIS AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 11, THAT THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR ANOTHER TEST EXPLOSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE02128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-0615
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760260/aaaacaec.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST REPORTED PENDING
TAGS: PFOR, TECH, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006